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TELEPHONE,  
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AL/2534

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March. 6./11

My dear Mrs Fawcett.  
I ought to have written to  
you ages ago, but I can't  
get up energy to do so to  
those who I felt might  
expect an answer, & wd not  
understand delay. This is not  
a thing I can write much  
about. There were seven  
weeks of suffering of vari-  
ous kinds, all patiently  
borne, & then a rebt wh. he  
lunged fr. I have long known

it must come, but now  
that it has, I feel it  
quite unbelievable. We had  
tried two years together, and  
the wrench at the roots of  
life had been severe.

I am getting ready for the  
Commission work wh. begins  
on the 14<sup>th</sup>, but I don't feel  
up to anything else. They  
are at me about speaking  
at various dates, but at this  
minute I feel ~~as~~ I am quite  
as likely to address an audience  
fr. the moon as from a plat-

form. I am tired, cold, ~~but~~  
<sup>and</sup> must have comparative  
peace for a little.

Besides, I feel as if the  
movement belonged to times  
wh. are not mine, & the vote  
when it comes will be for  
a Parliament, wh. will not  
be the thing I was brought  
up to believe the finest bul-  
work of the British Con-  
stitution. The luck of the  
ballot has been wonderful  
with us, & we shall see what  
comes of it. The Unionists are  
quarrelsome & fractious  
among themselves, the  
Government very jubilant

united on a fight. Salisbury was here last night speaking of the prospects with the greatest gloom.

The Commission has reached a very critical stage, as we are now to work at the draft. Lord Gorell's skeleton Report is all what we wish as regards women.

The Suffrage Societies have been wonderfully kind in their resolutions of sympathy & get letters from suffragists literally of all parts of the world. Of such we are the one party with a clear policy & with leading! Yes affately

Francis Balfour